

**Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success**  
**August 24, 2015 at 2pm**  
*Patrick Henry Building, West Reading Room*  
*1111 East Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia 23219*

**A G E N D A**

- I. Welcome
- II. Updates from the Children's Cabinet – Secretary Holton and Secretary Hazel
- III. Updates on Council Recommendations
  - i. Report to the Governor and Children's Cabinet
  - ii. Ongoing Workgroup Updates
    - 1. Virginia Preschool Initiative – Christine Harris
    - 2. Health and Well Being - Catherine Hancock
    - 3. Data and Governance – Aleta Lawson
- IV. Briefing on the Implementation Status of VPI PLUS  
*Dr. Mark Allan, Preschool Expansion Grant Coordinator, Virginia Department of Education*
- V. The New Child Care and Development Block Grant in Virginia  
*Margaret Schultze, Commissioner of the Virginia Department of Social Services and Barbara Newlin, Director of the Division of Child Care and Early Childhood Development for the Virginia Department of Social Services*
- VI. Public Comment
- VII. Wrap Up and Next Steps

*The next meeting of the full CCCS will be in late fall 2015*

# COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL ON CHILDHOOD SUCCESS

[WWW.LTGOV.VIRGINIA.GOV/INI\\_CHILDHOODSUCCESS.HTM](http://WWW.LTGOV.VIRGINIA.GOV/INI_CHILDHOODSUCCESS.HTM)

**Monday August 24, 2015**

# Agenda



## **Updates from the Children's Cabinet**

## **Updates on Council Recommendations and Workgroups**

- Report to the Governor and Children's Cabinet
- VPI Workgroup – Christine Harris
- Health and Well-Being – Catherine Hancock
- Data and Governance – Aleta Lawson

## **VPI PLUS Implementation Update**

- Dr. Mark Allan, Preschool Expansion Grant Coordinator

## **The New Child Care and Development Block Grant in Virginia**

- Virginia Department of Social Services Commissioner, Margaret Schultze & Barb Newlin

## **Public Comment**

# UPDATES ON COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS AND WORKGROUPS

# IMPLEMENTATION OF VPI PLUS

Dr. Mark Allan, Department of Education

# THE NEW CHILD CARE DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT (CCDBG) AND VIRGINIA

Commissioner Schultze, Department of Social Services

PUBLIC COMMENT

# Next Steps

- Next full CCCS meeting will be held in late fall of 2015
- Website with meeting materials, agenda, minutes, etc:  
[www.ltgov.virginia.gov/ini\\_childhoodsuccess.htm](http://www.ltgov.virginia.gov/ini_childhoodsuccess.htm)
- Public comments can be submitted electronically to:  
[childhoodsuccess@ltgov.virginia.gov](mailto:childhoodsuccess@ltgov.virginia.gov)
- To be added to the Listserv and receive email updates  
contact Ellen Nicholas ([ellen.nicholas@ltgov.virginia.gov](mailto:ellen.nicholas@ltgov.virginia.gov))





# Virginia Preschool Initiative-**PLUS**

Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success

August 24, 2015

# School Readiness

“School Readiness” describes the capabilities of children, their families, schools, and communities that will best promote student success in kindergarten and beyond.

“Ready Children” describes a child who is prepared for school socially, personally, physically, and intellectually within the developmental domains addressed in Virginia’s *Foundation Blocks for Early Learning: Comprehensive Standards for Four-Year-Olds*.

# Importance of VPI

## *Differential Effects of Preschool: Curry School of Education (2011)*

- VPI participation is associated with a **reduced** likelihood of repeating kindergarten.
- Literacy effect is maintained through **first grade** for African American and Hispanic students and students with disabilities.

## *Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission (2007)*

- Analysis showed **strong association** between VPI participation and PALS (literacy) scores.
- More than 91 percent of principals surveyed cited positive effects of students' participation in preschool continuing through at least first grade.

# Phonological Literacy Awareness Screening (PALS)

- The impact of participation in the VPI program can be seen in results of the **fall 2014 PALS** that was administered to **kindergarten** students.
- **93 %** of the students who participated in a VPI program were **ready** for kindergarten and did **not** need intervention services in kindergarten the next school year.
- Conversely, **71.8 %** of the students who did not participate in any PreK program were ready for kindergarten. Resulting in **28.2%** of students in this category needing some type of intervention in kindergarten.

# U.S. Department of Education

## Preschool Grants

Two types of grants:

- **Development Grants** are for states that currently serve less than 10 percent of *four-year-olds* and have not received a Race to the Top – Early Learning Challenge (RTTT-ELC) grant.
- **Expansion Grants** are for states that currently serve 10 percent or more of *four-year-olds* or have received an RTTT-ELC grant. (*Virginia*)

# VPI+ Overview

## Year 1 Federal Award Amount

- \$ 17,500,000 (3 additional years)
- January 1, 2015 – December 31, 2018

## Lead Agency

Virginia Department of Education (VDOE)

## Partnerships and Support

- Eleven Divisions and local public-private partnerships
- Virginia Department of Social Services
- Virginia Early Childhood Foundation/Smart Beginnings
- University of Virginia's Center for the Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL)
- Commonwealth Council on Childhood Success

# VPI+ IMPLEMENTATION TEAM

Brunswick County Public  
Schools



Prince William County  
Public Schools



VIRGINIA DEPARTMENT OF  
SOCIAL SERVICES

Chesterfield County Public  
Schools

Henrico County Public  
Schools

Richmond City Public  
Schools



Sussex County Public Schools

Norfolk Public Schools

Fairfax County Public  
Schools

Petersburg City Public  
Schools



Giles County Public  
Schools

Winchester Public  
Schools



# Model for New VPI+ Classrooms

- Full-day program
- Highly qualified teachers
- Developmentally-appropriate, culturally and linguistically responsive, evidence-based curricula and formative assessments
- Evidence-based professional development
- Coaching for implementation of best practices for early learning environments
- Partnerships with private preschool providers



# Model for New VPI+ Classrooms

- Community partnerships to promote family access to services with targeted outreach for hard-to-reach families
- Accessible comprehensive services provided
- Summative assessments
- Virginia Star Quality Initiative – Virginia's Quality Rating and Improvement System (QRIS)

# Model for Improved PreK Classrooms

An “improved” state preschool program slot is a slot that already existed at the time of Virginia’s grant application and that will be improved by any of the following allowable improvements using grant funds:

- extending programs from half-day to full-day;
- decreasing child-to-staff ratios;
- employing and compensating a teacher with a bachelor’s degree;
- providing evidence-based professional development and coaching; or
- providing comprehensive services.



By the end of the grant, over 13,000 more preschool students will be served in new or improved high-quality preschool slots.



By the end of the grant term, the goal is for VPI+ students to exceed state and national averages on all measures for children who are economically disadvantaged, with a steady increase in meeting each benchmark annually.

# VPI+ Accomplishments and Updates

- VPI+ state coordinator, grants and reports manager, and preschool program specialist have been hired. It is anticipated that VPI+ senior data analyst will be hired soon.
- Numerous VPI+ technical assistance webinars have been held with school divisions and continue to be held regularly.
- VPI+ Implementation Team has been established and two quarterly meetings were held on April 30 and July 29, 2015.
- Virginia's budget and Statement of Work and school divisions' budget summaries were approved by the United States Departments of Education and Health and Human Services on June 24, 2015.

# VPI+ Accomplishments and Updates

- Virginia's Statement of Work (SOW)
- The SOW will be visible on the [GRADS360](#) site in the near future.
- School division's VPI+ annual plans are undergoing review by VDOE VPI+ staff and will be discussed with divisions during upcoming site visits in September/October.
- Virginia's plan for program and fiscal monitoring was submitted to the United States Departments of Education and Health and Human Services on July 30, 2015.
- A VPI+ Cross-Organizational Data Team has been established and held its first meeting on April 9, 2015.

# VPI+ Accomplishments and Updates

- Staff from the Center of Advanced Study of Teaching and Learning (CASTL) completed visits to all 11 VPI+ school divisions to begin joint planning for the 2015-2016 school year.
- Contract for the VPI+ curriculum and formative assessment has been awarded to Teaching Strategies, LLC (Creative Curriculum/GOLD).
- Procurement of the VPI+ program evaluation team is in process with anticipated contract being finalized soon.
- Procurement of a menu of professional development opportunities is in process with anticipated contracts being awarded in late September or early October.

# VPI+ Accomplishments and Updates

## Creative Curriculum/GOLD Training

School Division Host	Date	Other Divisions Attending
Winchester	August 4	Giles
Richmond	August 19	Sussex
Norfolk	August 25	
Petersburg	August 26	Brunswick Richmond (coaches) Sussex (coach)
Chesterfield	August 27	

\* Fairfax, Henrico, and Prince William have requested to continue implementing their divisions' current preschool curricula.



# *SAVE THE DATE*

## *VPI+ Implementation Team Meeting*

- Face-to-Face in Richmond: September 29 , 2015  
(8:30 a.m. – 4:30 p.m.)
- Library of Virginia, 800 E. Broad Street, Richmond, Virginia  
23219
- Attending: VPI+ division contact, VPI+ coordinator, coach,  
family engagement coordinator, and private/community  
partner.

# VPI+ Implementation Team Meeting

## Topics

- Comprehensive Services
- Family Engagement
- Leadership
- VPI+ Coaching
- VPI+ Program Evaluation
- Formative Assessments



Virginia Preschool Initiative-**PLUS**

VPI+ provides the opportunity to increase preschool access, quality, and impact while providing preschool programs through participating school divisions and in partnerships with private providers.

## ***VDOE Early Childhood Education:***

Dr. John “Billy” Haun, Chief Academic Officer

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Dr. Christine Harris, Director, Office of Humanities and  
Early Childhood [Christine.Harris@doe.virginia.gov](mailto:Christine.Harris@doe.virginia.gov)

Mrs. Cheryl Strobel, Associate Director, VPI State Program

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Dr. Mark Allan, Coordinator, VPI+ Federal Grant Program

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# Virginia Department of Social Services

*people helping people*

## Child Care and Development Block Grant

Presentation to  
Commonwealth Council for Childhood Success  
August 24, 2015

# Today We Will Talk About ...

1

- Child Care and Development Block Grant
- Major Block Grant changes
- Plan development in Virginia
- Your perspectives and input



- President signed the Child Care and Development Block Grant (CCDBG) Act of 2014 into law on November 19, 2014
- Law reauthorized the Child Care and Development Fund (CCDF) program for the first time in 18 years; In effect through 2020
- CCDF is the primary Federal funding source devoted to:
  - Providing low-income families that are working or participating in education and training with help paying for child care, and
  - Improving the quality of child care for all children



- New law makes important statutory changes focused on strengthening child care to better support the success of two generations
- Research demonstrates that access to stable high quality child care can promote school readiness and success for children, employment for parents, and economic security for families





- Two new purposes of the Act added
  - **State maximum flexibility** in developing child care programs and policies that best suit the needs of children and parents
  - Promote **parental choice**
  - Encourage States to provide **consumer education information** to help parents make informed choices
  - Assist States in delivering **high-quality, coordinated early childhood care** and education services to maximize parents' options and support parents trying to **achieve independence** from public assistance
  - Assist States in **improving the overall quality** of child care services and programs
  - **Improve child care and development of participating children**
  - **Increase the number and percentage of low-income children in high-quality child care settings**



## Family-Friendly Eligibility Policies

- Establishes a **12-month eligibility re-determination period** for CCDF families, regardless of changes in income (as long as income does not exceed the federal threshold of 85% of State median income) or temporary changes in participation in work, training, or education activities
- Allows States the option to **terminate assistance** prior to re-determination if a parent loses employment, however assistance must be continued for at least 3 months to allow for job search
- Eligibility re-determination should not require parents to **unduly disrupt** their employment



## Subsidy Program Eligibility

- Provides for a **graduated phase-out** of assistance for families whose income has increased at the time of re-determination, but remains below the federal threshold
- Requires procedures for enrollment of **homeless** children pending completion of documentation, and training and outreach to promote access to services for homeless families



## Provider Requirements

- States to establish **health and safety requirements** in 10 areas for providers participating in CCDF (e.g., building & physical premises safety, emergency preparedness planning, handling & storage of hazardous materials)
- Providers must receive pre-service and ongoing **training** on such topics
- States to conduct **FBI fingerprint criminal background checks** for all child care staff
- States to certify child care providers will comply with **child abuse reporting** requirements



## Provider Requirements

- Requires States to conduct pre-licensure and annual unannounced **inspections** of licensed CCDF providers and annual inspections of license-exempt CCDF providers
- States must establish qualifications and training for licensing **inspectors** and appropriate inspector-to-provider ratios
- Requires States to have standards for CCDF providers regarding **group size limits** and appropriate child-to-provider ratios based on the age of children in child care
- Requires **emergency preparedness** planning and statewide disaster plans for child care



## Consumer and Provider Education

- States make available by electronic means provider-specific information showing results of monitoring and inspection reports, as well as number of deaths, serious injuries and instances of substantiated child abuse that occur in child care settings each year
- States must have a website describing processes for licensing/monitoring child care providers, processes for criminal background checks, and offenses that prevent individuals from being providers
- A hotline for parents to report complaints must also be available



## Improving the Quality of Care

- Phases-in increase in minimum **quality set-aside** from 4% to 9% over a 5-year period. In addition, requires States to spend minimum of 3% to improve the quality of care for **infants and toddlers**
- Requires States to spend quality funds on at least 1 of 10 specified **quality activities**, which include developing tiered quality rating systems and supporting statewide resource and referral services
- Requires establishment of **professional development** and training requirements with ongoing annual training and progression to improve knowledge and skills of CCDF providers



## Other Areas

- ***Social-emotional health***: Includes provisions on **social-emotional health** of children, including providing consumer and provider education about policies regarding expulsions of children from early care and education programs and developmental screenings for children at risk of cognitive or developmental delays
- ***Supply-building***: States must develop strategies for increasing supply and quality of services for children in underserved areas, infants and toddlers, children with disabilities, and children in non-traditional hour care—which may include use of grants and contracts
- ***Plan timeframe***: Changes state CCDF plan from 2-year to 3-year plan





- Department of Social Services is lead agency for Virginia's Child Care and Development Fund Plan
- Plan developed in context of CCDBG Act, federal and state regulations, Code of Virginia, program guidelines, federal "preprint"
- Input through multiple means and from multiple sources: CCCS recommendations, workgroups, meetings/hearings, presentation/discussions, organizations, agencies, other states
- Draft plan posted on line around 10/1/15



- Opportunity to comment both on line and at public meetings/hearings promoted through partner organizations/agencies, interested party lists, newspapers, email notifications, online touts, social media
- States submit plans to the federal Office of Child Care 3/1/16
- Plan implementation 6/1/16
- CCDBG staggers implementation dates for some provisions
  - Increases in quality spending requirements: phase in through FY 2021
  - Monitoring of licensing & regulatory requirements: 11/19/16
  - Criminal background checks: 9/30/17



## Public Meeting Schedule

Region	Date	Location
Western	10/21/15 5:30 – 7:30 PM	VDSS Western Regional Office, 190 Patton Street Abingdon, VA 24210
Northern	10/27/15 5:45 – 7:45 PM	VDSS Northern Regional Office, 410 Rosedale Court Warrenton, VA 20186
Piedmont	10/29/15 5:30 – 7:30 PM	VDSS Piedmont Regional Office, 1351 Hershberger Road Suite 210, Crossroads Corporate Center, Roanoke, VA 24012
Richmond	11/2/15 5:30 – 7:30 PM	VDSS Central Regional Office, 1604 Santa Rosa Road, Richmond, VA 23229
Tidewater	11/4/15 5:30 – 7:30 PM	VDSS Eastern Regional Office, 291 Independence Boulevard Pembroke Office Park, Pembroke IV, Suite 300, Virginia Beach, VA 23462

- Which provisions would you identify as higher priorities for Virginia? Why?
- Are there any concepts or requirements that seem problematic? Why?
- What is your overall impression of the new federal requirements?



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